ABSTRACT

Controlled release oral solid dosage form for the reduction of serum cholesterol levels in humans include a drug comprising an alkyl ester of hydroxy substituted naphthalenes (e.g., lovastatin) and a controlled release carrier, such that the dosage form provides a mean time to maximum plasma concentration (T_{max}) of the drug which occurs at about 10 to about 32 hours after oral administration on a once-a-day basis to human patients. The dosage form provides a therapeutically effective reduction in serum cholesterol levels. Methods of reducing serum cholesterol levels in humans are also disclosed.